

## Preface

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The Euro-Mediterranean region is currently facing not only political, economical, and social challenges, but also an ever growing environmental degradation that have turned environmental and resource protection into an increasingly important issue. These issues have re-launched the debate on revitalizing the Euro-Mediterranean integration process by means of concrete cooperative projects in many sectors, especially those related to environmental awareness, assessment, and improvement. This integration process is mainly intended to reduce the development gap between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean and to create new and closer political, economical, social, cultural, and most importantly scientific ties between these two shores on the basis of common concerns.

In this context, and precisely to promote the Euro-Mediterranean scientific partnership so as to develop and integrate environmental research in the region, under the auspices of “Springer” and together with a group of Euro-Mediterranean scientists, we have recently launched the

*Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration*. The journal offers a scientific platform for presenting and discussing the latest advances in research that focuses on emerging environmental issues and challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In the process, our journal seeks to give more concrete expression to the Euro-Mediterranean integration process by supplementing existing North–South programs and agreements with a new multilateral scientific program that emphasizes in particular the vulnerability and proactive remediation of the Euro-Mediterranean region from an environmental point of view.

To tackle this task, *Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration*, the first international journal from the Euro-Mediterranean region encompassing all disciplines of environmental sciences, will pursue a multi-disciplinary approach that involves many Euro-Mediterranean scientists from diverse backgrounds, in particular from the geo- and bio-environmental sciences and engineering, and thus make an essential contribution towards

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Map of the Euro-Mediterranean region from the copy to nineteenth century of Catalan Atlas of 1375

ensuring that science and knowledge can contribute to promoting a more sustainable environment for the Euro-Mediterranean region.

*Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration* aims to publish original research on various multi-disciplinary topics linked to the evolution and development of the Euro-Mediterranean environment—past, present, and future. Our main objective is to bring the journal into line with higher standards to support research and innovation, promote the exchange of scientific knowledge, and foster collaboration among Euro-Mediterranean communities. Accordingly, the journal invites research and review articles on all crosscutting themes of environmental sciences and engineering, including innovative approaches and processes for a sustainable environment, environmental risk assessment, ecotoxicology, bioremediation and phytoremediation, water quality (assessment, protection, and management), water resource engineering and management, natural resources (characterization, assessment, management, and valorization), renewable energy (biomass, wind, waste valorization and management), sustainable management of marine environment and coastal areas, remote sensing and GIS for geo-environmental

investigations, geo- and natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes and landslides), and the environmental health sciences (e.g., natural and social impacts on human health). This very first annual volume of *Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration* is just the beginning, and provides only a glimpse into the actual scope of the journal.

**Acknowledgments** In this first volume of *Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration*, we provide a compilation of various research topics aiming to better understand key environmental processes in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Without the help of the associate editors, editorial board members, and reviewers, it would not have been possible to publish this 2016 volume. Our special thanks go to the “University of Sfax” in Tunisia and its “Association University and Environment” for their generous support and sponsorship. We also wish to thank “Springer” for this opportunity to help strengthen Euro-Mediterranean integration.

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